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Document Number: 1980LAPAZ08372

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Page: 1

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LA PAZ 08372 101556Z PAGE 01 ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 SYE-00 DCT-02 HA-06 USSS-00 AID-07 EB-08 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4585 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JSCINCSO J2 QUARRY HTS PN IMMEDIATE

JSMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

Margaget P. Grafeld, Director (FRelease () Excise () Deny Exemption(s):

ARGENTINA PROJECT (\$200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Declassify: () In Part () in Full

() Classify as __ () Extend as __ () Downgrade to __ Date _____ Declaseify on _____ Reason ____

JSUN FOR AMBASSADOR WEISSMAN

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/10/86 (FOUCHE, ROBERT M.) OR-P rags: pins, pint, pors, bl

SUBJECT: ALLEGED ARGENTINE DEATH SQUAD AGAINST HERMAN SILES

J LA PAZ 8372

ENTIRE TEXT)

. UDP SENATOR ELECT FEDERICO ALVAREZ PLATA CAME OUT OF IDING BRIEFLY EVENING OF OCTOBER 9 TO MEET URGENTLY ITH US AT HIS REQUEST. INFORMATION HE WANTED TO DNVEY IS THAT AN ARGENTINE DEATH SQUAD TRAVELED A FEW DAYS O FROM BOLIVIA TO U.S. -- PRESUMABLY TO NEW YORK -- TO SASSINATE HERNAN SILES. ALVAREZ PLATA SAID UDP SOURCES ARNED OF THIS LAST TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7. THEIR SOURCE IS A MAN WHO WORKS IN BOLIVIAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE. CORDING TO THAT SOURCE, THE ARGENTINES CALLED FROM THE U.S. CONFIRM THEIR ARRIVAL. THE CALL WAS PLACED TO ARMY COL. FAUSTINO RICO TORO WHO WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO PEIVE IT. SOURCE HERSELF TOOK THE CALL INSTEAD, AND

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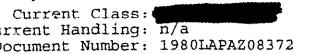
LA PAZ 08372 101556Z

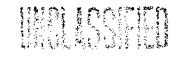
IVED THE TELEPHONIC CONFIRMATION OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

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Page: 1







Page: 2

Channel: n/a

ALVAREZ PLATA EXPRESSED HIS HOPE OF OBTAINING NAMES TO NUMBERS, BUT IN THE INTERIM HE WANTED TO CONVEY IS INFORMATION TO US ON URGENT BASIS.

COMMENT: ALVAREZ PLATA'S INFORMATION IN THE PAST HAS EN QUITE GOOD. HE WAS THE FIRST TO INFORM US OF COL. TUSCH BUSCH'S EFFORTS TO STOP THE JULY 17 COUP AND THE TTER'S ALLEGED DESIRE TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HIS DISASTROUS KEOVER OF LAST NOVEMBER. THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN BSEQUENTLY BORNE OUT BY REPORTS FROM INSTITUTIONALIST FICERS THAT NATUSCH IS DEALING WITH THEM IN AN EFFORT REVERSE THE PRESENT COURSE OF EVENTS IN BOLIVIA AND FECT A SALUTARY SUBSTITUTION FOR THE GARCIA MEZA REGIME. HER INFORMATION HE HAS PASSED ON HAS BEEN EQUALLY LPFUL, SO THAT WE ARE NOT INCLINED TO DISMISS THIS AS RE RUMOR OR GOSSIP.

THE LOGIC OF TRYING TO LIQUIDATE SILES IS NOT CLEAR, THEN VERY LITTLE THIS REGIME HAS DONE APPEARS TO HAVE DE MUCH SENSE WHEN ITS ACTIONS ARE COMPARED TO WHAT OULD BE ITS OBJECTIVES OF IMPROVING ITS IMAGE, CONSOLIDATING TERNAL SUPPORT, OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY, AND TACKLING E COUNTRY'S MAJOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HENCE, VEN THE SEEMINGLY IRRATIONAL ACTIONS OF ARMY G-2 COL. CO TORO AND INTERIOR MINISTER COL. ARCE GOMEZ, WHO INTERIOR MINISTER COL. ARCE GOMEZ, WHO ANY DIRECTION FROM THE GARCIA MEZA-BERNAL-TERRAZAS FERNING TRIUMVIRATE, WE ALSO CANNOT RULE OUT A DECISION M BELOW TO GO AFTER SILES.

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